

Preschool Disability

Definition:

A preschool child with a disability shall be three through five years of age and shall, by reason of one or more of the following conditions, be unable to receive reasonable educational benefit from general education: long-term physical impairment or illness, significant limited intellectual capacity, significant identifiable emotional disorder, specific learning disability or speech language impairment.

Note: for a preschool child who qualifies according to one of the categorical conditions listed in this definition above, complete the Determination of Disability form for the appropriate disability

Criteria:

Criteria for a preschool child being unable to receive reasonable educational benefit from general education shall be a substantial discrepancy between the child's performance and behavior as compared to children of a comparable age. Children ages three through five who would otherwise qualify according to one or more of the above categorical conditions but for whom the category cannot be appropriately determined may qualify for preschool special education if multiple sources of information are utilized and if such children meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Children who rank at the seventh percentile or below on a valid standardized diagnostic instrument, or the technical equivalent in standard scores (76 if the mean is 100 and the standard deviation is 16) or standard deviations (1.5 standard deviations below the mean) in one or more of the following areas of development: cognition, communication, physical and psychosocial.
- Children with identifiable conditions known through empirical data to be associated with significant delays in development.
- In extraordinary cases when a standardized score cannot be determined, a child may be determined disabled based on the informed opinion of the assessment team which includes the parent(s) and with documentation of the rationale for the inability to obtain a standardized score.

CDE Resources and Information

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/early/childfind.htm>

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/early/PreschoolSpecialED.htm>

Additional Resources and Information

Where Do I Start? Resources for Parents and Children with Disabilities or Special Health Care Needs

Where Do I Start? Disability Specific Resources

www.eicolorado.org

EI Colorado: Early Intervention Colorado connects families with early intervention services to help infants and toddlers under age three grow and develop, and to help their families in this process

www.peakparent.org

PEAK: Colorado's Parent Training and Information Center – Statewide parent advisors who provide information about the special education process and parent's rights

www.cchn.org/ckf

Colorado Covering Kids and Families – Information contains health coverage and health care

Adams 12 Five Star Schools Preschool Locations

Preschoolers who qualify for special education services are served in integrated preschool settings. Integrated preschool programs include at least 50% nondisabled children. Preschool programs are located at the following elementary school sites:

Centennial Elementary School
Coronado Elementary School
Malley Drive Elementary School
Mountain View Elementary School (Deaf/Hard of Hearing children)
North Mor Elementary School
North Star Elementary School
Riverdale Elementary School
Skyview Elementary School
Tarver Elementary School
The Studio School
Woodglen Elementary School